

To begin to repair the damage to its relations with the United States, Europe, and other nations and to begin restoring its place in the world, Russia must act to end this crisis.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 7:30 a.m. on August 15 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on August 16. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 15. In his address, the President referred to President Nicolas Sarkozy of France, in his capacity as President of the European Council. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks in Crawford, Texas

August 16, 2008

Situation in Georgia

Good morning. I just had a briefing by my national security team on the latest updates—on the latest developments in Georgia, and there is some progress to report.

First of all, I want to thank Secretary of State Rice for her trip, and thank you for coming back here to Crawford to give me a firsthand briefing.

She went to Tbilisi, met with President Saakashvili and his team. And during that time, the President signed the six-point peace plan negotiated by President Sarkozy on behalf of the European Union. President Medvedev of Russia has now signed on to the terms of this agreement. And that's an important development; it's a hopeful step.

Now, Russia needs to honor the agreement and withdraw its forces, and of course, end military operations.

Secretary Rice will soon travel to Brussels, where she will meet with the foreign ministers of our NATO allies and EU officials to continue to rally the free world in the defense of a free Georgia.

This morning, also, I was briefed by Secretary Gates on the U.S. military's humani-

tarian mission to help the Georgian people recover from the trauma they have suffered. In recent days, military flights have landed in Georgia to provide relief supplies, and more will be arriving in the days ahead.

A major issue is Russia's contention that the regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia may not be a part of Georgia's future. But these regions are a part of Georgia, and the international community has repeatedly made clear that they will remain so. Georgia is a member of the United Nations, and South Ossetia and Abkhazia lie within its internationally recognized borders. Georgia's borders should command the same respect as every other nation's.

There's no room for debate on this matter. The United Nations Security Council has adopted numerous resolutions concerning Georgia. These resolutions are based on the premise that South Ossetia and Abkhazia remain within the borders of Georgia and that their underlying conflicts will be resolved through international negotiations. These resolutions are based on the premise that South Ossetia and Abkhazia are to be considered a part of the Georgian territory, and that to the extent that there's conflicts, they will be resolved peacefully.

These resolutions reaffirm Georgia's sovereignty and independence and territorial integrity. Russia itself has endorsed these resolutions. The international community is clear that South Ossetia and Abkhazia are part of Georgia, and the United States fully recognizes this reality.

We will continue to stand behind Georgia's democracy; we will continue to insist that Georgia's sovereignty and independence and territorial integrity be respected.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:06 a.m. at the Bush Ranch. In his remarks, he referred to President Mikheil Saakashvili of Georgia; and President Nicolas Sarkozy of France, in his capacity as President of the European Council.

Memorandum on Assignment of Function Under Sections 1001(a) and (b) of the America COMPETES Act To Convene a National Science and Technology Summit and Submit a Report to the Congress Detailing the Results of the Summit

August 18, 2008

Memorandum for the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy

Subject: Assignment of Function Under Sections 1001(a) and (b) of the America COMPETES Act To Convene a National Science and Technology Summit and Submit a Report to the Congress Detailing the Results of the Summit

By the authority vested in me as President of the United States by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 301 of title 3, United States Code, I hereby assign to you the function of the President under sections 1001(a) and (b) of the America COMPETES Act (Public Law 110-69).

You are authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 19. An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

Statement on the Death of President Levy Patrick Mwanawasa of Zambia

August 19, 2008

Laura and I are saddened to hear of the passing of Zambian President Levy Mwanawasa. President Mwanawasa was a champion of democracy in his own country and throughout Africa. As President of Zambia, President Mwanawasa launched a sweeping anticorruption campaign and dedicated himself to improving the welfare of all Zambians. As Chairman of the Southern African Development Community, President Mwanawasa worked tirelessly to uphold the values of good governance, speaking out

against human rights abuses and threats to democracy when many others were silent.

On behalf of the United States, we extend our sincere condolences to President Mwanawasa's wife, his family, and all Zambians during this difficult time.

Remarks to the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Convention in Orlando, Florida

August 20, 2008

Thank you all very much. Thank you for the warm welcome. And I am proud to address the Veterans of Foreign Wars. I spoke to you when I was a Presidential candidate, and this is the fifth time that I have spoken to your national convention as your President. And every time I've been honored to meet with members of the VFW, I come away from these meetings with my—inspired by your love of country, by your devotion for duty, and for the example you set for those who wear the uniform today.

I also appreciate the fact that you're here in spite of the weather. [Laughter] Tropical Storm Fay set a challenge for this convention, but your members were wise enough to hang around. I do want to thank the citizens—the officials of the State of Florida for working hard to make sure that people were ready to address the storm. We watched this very carefully, and I must say that the people of this State worked hard to make sure that this convention and other lives were saved. We appreciate the work of the local officials. And of course, we'll continue to monitor the storm as it moves through the area.

I do want to thank my friend George Lisicki for his leadership as your national commander. He's done a fine job on behalf of the VFW. I know firsthand; I've had him to the Oval Office. He's not afraid to speak his mind; I listen. And I know you're proud of the job he has done. And I'm also—[applause]. And I want to thank his wife, Gloria, for putting up with him. [Laughter]

I do want to thank Bob Wallace, the executive director of the VFW. He has worked very hard to represent you, and he's done so in fine fashion.